

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-11 /071 W  
-----016775 220609Z /10

R 220504Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9708  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
AMEMBASSY MANILA  
AMCONSUL MEDAN  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
AMCONSUL SURABAYA  
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, ID  
SUBJECT: SUHARTO SUPPORTS JUDICIARY INDEPENDENCE

1. ADDRESSING THE OPENING SESSION OF THE SEVENTH ASIAN JUDICIAL CONFERENCE JUNE 20 IN JAKARTA, WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY 17 ASIAN CHIEF JUSTICES, PRESIDENT SUHARTO PROCLAIMED HIS FULL SUPPORT FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY FROM THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT. HE WARNED, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH INDEPENDENCE IN INDONESIA MUST BE RESPONSIBLE, AND MUST NOT BE ABUSED TO VIOLATE ANY ESTABLISHED LAWS OR COMMIT ANY UNWARRANTED ACTS. SUHARTO NOTED THE OBLIGATION OF THE JUDICIARY TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO SPEEDY AND IMPARTIAL JUSTICE. THE PRESIDENT SAID HIS GOVERNMENT HOPED TO BE ABLE TO SAFEGUARD AND PROTECT AN  
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INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY POWER IN A STATE UNDER THE RULE OF LAW.

2. SUHARTO'S REMARKS WERE VIEWED BY SOME LOCAL OBSERVERS AS A RESPONSE TO CRITICISM FROM LAWYERS THAT SUPREME COURT JUSTICES ARE APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT AND THEREFORE ARE UNDER HIS CONTROL. THE INDONESIAN LAWYERS SSO-

CIATION, PERADI, HAS PROPOSED THAT JUSTICES BE APPOINTED  
BY PARLIAMENT TO LESSEN THEIR DEPENDENCE ON THE EXECUTIVE  
BRANCH.

3. COMMENT: THE PROPOSAL IS NOT LIKELY TO WIN GOVERNMENT  
APPROVAL IN THE NEAR FUTURE, BUT THE ISSUE ILLUSTRATES BOTH  
THE PUBLIC INTEREST IN LEGAL REFORMS AND THE GOVERNMENT'S  
OFFICIAL COMMITMENT TO THE RULE OF LAW.  
MASTERS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INDEPENDENCE, GOVERNMENT REFORM, COURTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978JAKART08373  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Subject:** SUHARTO SUPPORTS JUDICIARY INDEPENDENCE  
**TAGS:** PINT, SHUM, ID  
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**Review Markings:**  
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